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II. *A Letter from Mr. J. Alexander to Peter Collinson, F. R. S. concerning a Place in New-York for measuring a Degree of Latitude.*

S I R,

New-York, July 21. 1740.

THE Mention of the *French* Endeavours to discover the Figure of the Earth by Observation, puts me in Mind—That a very exact Observation for that Purpose might be made here, because *Hudson's* River here is frozen over from *New-York* up to *Albany*, and its Course is very strait, almost true North, and the Distance between *New-York* and *Albany* is above One hundred and Fifty Miles; *New-York* is in Latitude of $40^{\circ} 40'$, nearly; so that the Length of above Two Degrees of Latitude on the Earth might be measured here, with much more Exactness than it was possible in *England* or *France*, because of the Ascents and Descents, and curved Lines, which, I think, they would continually be obliged to make Allowances for.

From all which Difficulties the Mensuration here on the Ice would be intirely clear.

Yours,

J. Alexander.